



LAWS OF ALASKA

2022

Source

SCS CSHB 62(JUD)

Chapter No.

AN ACT

Relating to the Legislative Ethics Act; relating to solemnization of marriage; and relating to consent to marriage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

THE ACT FOLLOWS ON PAGE 1

AN ACT

1 Relating to the Legislative Ethics Act; relating to solemnization of marriage; and relating to
2 consent to marriage.

3

4 * **Section 1.** AS 24.60.030(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) A legislator or legislative employee may not

6 (1) solicit, agree to accept, or accept a benefit other than official
7 compensation for the performance of public duties; this paragraph may not be
8 construed to prohibit

9 (A) lawful solicitation for and acceptance of campaign
10 contributions;

11 (B) [,] solicitation or acceptance of contributions for a charity
12 event, as defined in AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B);

13 (C) [, OR] the acceptance of a gift under AS 24.60.075 or
14 24.60.080; **or**

15 **(D) a legislator from accepting reasonable, ordinary, and**

1 **customary travel and hospitality primarily for the purpose of solemnizing**
2 **a marriage under AS 25.05.261(a)(4);**

3 (2) use public funds, facilities, equipment, services, or another
4 government asset or resource for a nonlegislative purpose, for involvement in or
5 support of or opposition to partisan political activity, or for the private benefit of the
6 legislator, legislative employee, or another person; this paragraph does not prohibit

7 (A) limited use of state property and resources for personal
8 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
9 either the cost or value related to the use is nominal or the legislator or
10 legislative employee reimburses the state for the cost of the use;

11 (B) the use of mailing lists, computer data, or other information
12 lawfully obtained from a government agency and available to the general
13 public for nonlegislative purposes;

14 (C) the legislative council, notwithstanding AS 24.05.190, from
15 designating a public facility for use by legislators and legislative employees for
16 health or fitness purposes; when the council designates a facility to be used by
17 legislators and legislative employees for health or fitness purposes, it shall
18 adopt guidelines governing access to and use of the facility; the guidelines may
19 establish times in which use of the facility is limited to specific groups;

20 (D) a legislator from using the legislator's private office in the
21 capital city during a legislative session, and for the 10 days immediately before
22 and the 10 days immediately after a legislative session, for nonlegislative
23 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
24 if there is no cost to the state for the use of the space and equipment, other than
25 utility costs and minimal wear and tear, or the legislator promptly reimburses
26 the state for the cost; an office is considered a legislator's private office under
27 this subparagraph if it is the primary space in the capital city reserved for use
28 by the legislator, whether or not it is shared with others;

29 (E) a legislator from use of legislative employees to prepare
30 and send out seasonal greeting cards;

31 (F) a legislator from using state resources to transport

1 computers or other office equipment owned by the legislator but primarily used
2 for a state function;

3 (G) use by a legislator of photographs of that legislator;

4 (H) reasonable use of the Internet by a legislator or a legislative
5 employee except if the use is for election campaign purposes;

6 (I) a legislator or legislative employee from soliciting,
7 accepting, or receiving a gift on behalf of a recognized, nonpolitical charitable
8 organization in a state facility;

9 (J) a legislator from sending any communication in the form of
10 a newsletter to the legislator's constituents, except a communication expressly
11 advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or a newsletter or material in a
12 newsletter that is clearly only for the private benefit of a legislator or a
13 legislative employee; or

14 (K) full participation in a charity event approved in advance by
15 the Alaska Legislative Council;

16 (3) knowingly seek, accept, use, allocate, grant, or award public funds
17 for a purpose other than that approved by law, or make a false statement in connection
18 with a claim, request, or application for compensation, reimbursement, or travel
19 allowances from public funds;

20 (4) require a legislative employee to perform services for the private
21 benefit of the legislator or employee at any time, or allow a legislative employee to
22 perform services for the private benefit of a legislator or employee on government
23 time; it is not a violation of this paragraph if the services were performed in an
24 unusual or infrequent situation and the person's services were reasonably necessary to
25 permit the legislator or legislative employee to perform official duties;

26 (5) use or authorize the use of state funds, facilities, equipment,
27 services, or another government asset or resource for the purpose of political fund
28 raising or campaigning; this paragraph does not prohibit

29 (A) limited use of state property and resources for personal
30 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
31 either the cost or value related to the use is nominal or the legislator or

1 legislative employee reimburses the state for the cost of the use;

2 (B) the use of mailing lists, computer data, or other information
3 lawfully obtained from a government agency and available to the general
4 public for nonlegislative purposes;

5 (C) storing or maintaining, consistent with (b) of this section,
6 election campaign records in a legislator's office;

7 (D) a legislator from using the legislator's private office in the
8 capital city during a legislative session, and for the 10 days immediately before
9 and the 10 days immediately after a legislative session, for nonlegislative
10 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
11 if there is no cost to the state for the use of the space and equipment, other than
12 utility costs and minimal wear and tear, or the legislator promptly reimburses
13 the state for the cost; an office is considered a legislator's private office under
14 this subparagraph if it is the primary space in the capital city reserved for use
15 by the legislator, whether or not it is shared with others; or

16 (E) use by a legislator of photographs of that legislator.

17 * **Sec. 2.** AS 25.05.171(b) is amended to read:

18 (b) A superior court judge may grant permission for a person who has reached
19 the age of **16** [14] but is under the age of 18 to marry and may order the licensing
20 officer to issue the license if the judge finds, following a hearing at which the parents
21 and minor are given the opportunity to appear and be heard, that the marriage is in the
22 best interest of the minor, **that the other party to the marriage is not more than**
23 **three years older,** and that either

24 (1) the parents have given their consent; or

25 (2) the parents are

26 (A) arbitrarily and capriciously withholding consent;

27 (B) absent or otherwise unaccountable;

28 (C) in disagreement among themselves on the question; or

29 (D) unfit to decide the matter.

30 * **Sec. 3.** AS 25.05.301 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 25.05.301. Form of solemnization.** In the solemnization of marriage, no

1 particular form is required except that the parties shall assent or declare in the
2 presence of each other and the person solemnizing the marriage and in the presence of
3 at least **one** [TWO] competent **witness** [WITNESSES] that they take each other to be
4 husband and wife. A **person is competent to solemnize or witness a marriage if the**
5 **person is** [COMPETENT WITNESS FOR THIS PURPOSE IS A PERSON] of sound
6 mind capable of understanding the seriousness of the ceremony. At the time of the
7 ceremony, the person solemnizing the marriage shall complete the certification on the
8 original marriage certificate. The person solemnizing the marriage and the [TWO]
9 attending **witness** [WITNESSES] shall sign the original marriage certificate and the
10 necessary copies. **The witness must be 18 years of age or older. The witness shall**
11 **communicate with both parties before or after the ceremony, but before signing**
12 **the original marriage certificate and the necessary copies, and confirm that each**
13 **party intends to marry the other party. The marriage certificate must state that**
14 **the person solemnizing the marriage and the witness have confirmed with both**
15 **parties that they are entering the marriage intentionally and in the exercise of**
16 **each party's own free will.**

17 * **Sec. 4.** AS 25.05.321 is amended to read:

18 **Sec. 25.05.321. Certificates.** The person solemnizing the marriage shall, on
19 the forms provided by the bureau, complete two short-form certificates [,] and, after
20 that person and the **witness** [TWO WITNESSES] have signed them, give one to each
21 of the parties to the marriage. A church or congregation may design and furnish its
22 own form for this purpose, containing as a minimum the items contained in the form
23 furnished by the bureau. The original marriage certificate shall be filed as required by
24 AS 18.50 (Vital Statistics Act) and regulations adopted under it. The person
25 solemnizing the marriage shall complete the certificate as required and submit it to the
26 local registrar within seven days **after** [OF] the date the marriage is solemnized.

27 * **Sec. 5.** AS 25.05.321 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (b) The person solemnizing the marriage and the witness shall provide their
29 printed names, mailing and electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers on the
30 forms provided by the bureau or by a church or congregation.

31 * **Sec. 6.** AS 25.05.361 is amended to read:

1 **Sec. 25.05.361. Unlawful solemnization of marriage.** A person who
2 solemnizes a marriage without first receiving a proper marriage license from the
3 parties as provided in this chapter or without the parties declaring to take each other as
4 husband and wife, or without requiring the presence of **one** [TWO] competent **witness**
5 [WITNESSES]; or who solemnizes a marriage involving a person under the legal age
6 of marriage without the consent of (1) the licensing official when authorized, or (2) the
7 parents or guardian of the underaged person, being stated in the license; or who
8 solemnizes a marriage knowing of any legal impediment thereto, or who solemnizes a
9 marriage after the expiration of the license, or who falsely certifies to the date of a
10 marriage solemnized by that person is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction is
11 punishable by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by a fine of not more
12 than \$500, or by both.

13 * **Sec. 7.** AS 25.20.020 is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 25.20.020. Arrival at majority upon marriage.** A person arrives at the
15 age of majority upon being married according to law [, UNLESS THE PERSON IS
16 UNDER THE MARRIAGEABLE AGE OF CONSENT AS DEFINED IN
17 AS 25.05.171(a), IN WHICH CASE THE PERSON REACHES MAJORITY UPON
18 REACHING THE MARRIAGEABLE AGE OF CONSENT].

19 * **Sec. 8.** AS 25.05.041(a)(3), 25.05.041(a)(5), and 25.05.171(a) are repealed.